

*streets and byways*

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DUXBURY CLIPPER

## Out Of The Past

BY GERSHOM BRADFORD

Harrison Street - whence it's name.

"The earliest election that I can remember was that of Harrison," wrote Lucia Alden Bradford Knapp- 1836-1926, "politics are now so quiet it would be hard to picture to you the popular interest and excitement of those days. Our fathers took the national questions so to heart. They were the topic of the fireside, the parlor, the kitchen of the farmer, the country store where the men sat on counters and flour barrels, whittled and talked. In the North hatreds and fierce words grew out of the combats - in the South duels.

"I can well remember my first lesson in politics, I was six years old. The old hero of the Indian Wars who had defeated the great chief Tecumseh and had worked his way from poverty to celebrity, was the candidate to incite the popular enthusiasm. The accessories gathered about the campaign were such as to warm the hearts of the people. Log cabins like Harrison's early home were built for the campaign speakers, hard cider, the drink of the settlers, was given to the crowds assembled - their public meetings were measured by the acre, their processions by the mile. 'Tippecanoe and Tyler too,' was the cry. We even had log cabin sunbonnets. Tyler was really a Democrat."

Little Lucia's grandfather Captain Gershom Bradford 1774-1844 - was knee-deep in this campaign. He painted a sign - HARRISON STREET - and nailed it up at the corner of Tremont. It is still around somewhere. It was said that he painted a portrait of Harrison, but it scared the horses, so was removed.